

Weaving the Word

Here Are My Mother

Part 59 – February 21, 2016

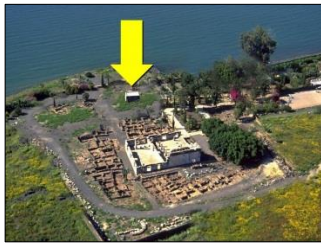
Welcome to where we're unlearning religion and learning relationship!

Do you take your relationship with Jesus for granted?

Do you think of Him more as your brother, Father, Friend, or ... Son?

One of His chief titles is the *Son of Man*. And, He *just used* it when rebuking the religious leaders with the *sign of Jonah*. (Mat 12:40; Luke 11:30) And, one of the strangest things His disciples ever heard Him say to *them, about them, pointing at them*, was: *"Here are my mother ..."* (Mat 12:49; Mark 3:34) He's referring to His *disciples*; so it's like saying, *"These are my mother."*

Do you love Jesus with the love of a good mother for her own child?



We're in the most dramatic *and detailed* day of Jesus' ministry! Jesus is in His home office in Capernaum, submerged in a sea of suffering.



Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were *not even able to eat*. **When his family heard about this, [in nearby Nazareth] they went to take charge of him,** [*krateō: lay hands; take hold by force*. It's the same word used when the religious leaders take hold of Jesus in Gethsemane. (Mat 26:48-50) The ESV says: *"they went out to seize him"*] for they said, **"He is out of his mind."** – Mark 3:20-21 NIV



They're not angry; they're worried. *"He's under so much pressure! There're so many people! And, you know He's not taking care of himself. He barely eats; He hardly sleeps. He's gonna sacrifice himself to death for those people!"*

I'm sure they rightly reason that *no one* could sustain what He's doing, while making the enemies He's making, without it ending badly.



Mary certainly believes that He's the Messiah. The angel. Shepherds. Wise Men. But, everyone trusted the religious leaders who taught that He'd work with them to create an earthly kingdom. They don't yet understand that every move Jesus is making is not only calculated but directed by God's Spirit through God's Word. And, **Mary really doesn't get that the religious rulers are the enemy; and, Jesus is *planning on sacrificing himself to death.***



“Yeshua just needs some rest, in his own bed, and a good foot-rub, and some home cooking; once He clears His head, He can apologize to the authorities and start over.”

I don't think Jesus' four brothers are bringing their mother, *to take Him by force*. I think Jesus' 45-year-old mother is bringing His brothers.

Brothers show love much differently than mothers.



“Come on boys, we're gonna go get your brother.”

“Aw, mom. He's fine. He can take care of himself.”

“He's committing suicide with those religious rulers! He needs us.”

“No! It's embarrassing. To Him. To us ... mom ... are you crying?”

Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. *[Causing an increasing disturbance in the crowd as more and more realize who she is]* **As Jesus was saying these things,** *[declaring Himself as One greater than uncaring Jonah or unfaithful Solomon; and, denouncing the religious rulers as wicked and adulterous deceivers who are like a clean house filled with evil spirits]* **a woman in the crowd** *[ecstatic at seeing His mother]* **called out,** *[“Your mom's here! Yeshua! Yeshua! It's your mom!” (That's my paraphrase)]* **“Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you.”** *[And, without missing a beat]* He replied, **“Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.”** *[“Not “blessed her” – “Interrupting her” – Blessed rather, are those who pay attention, and act accordingly.”]* – Mark 3:31a; Luke 11:27-28 NIV

I picture Jesus seeing His family heading toward Him, and then those religious leaders standing before Him, and then saying to the twelve behind Him, *“This is all I need right now; My mom!”*



Have you seen the commercial where the mom calls and interrupts an action hero, to tell him about the squirrels in the attic? The announcer says: *“If you're a mom, you call at the worst time; it's what you do.”*

Mary is obviously acting out of motherly concern, compassion, and love; she's just working against the will of God! So, **Jesus contrasts His mom to those who hear and obey God's Word.**

There are two types of disobedience depicted here: 1) **Those who work against God's will out of wickedness.** 2) **Those who work against God's will out of ignorance.** Many believers rest assured they're not in the first category, but make little effort to determine if they're in the second. **Do you take your relationship with Jesus for granted? How would you know? What are your safeguards? Scripture? Accountability? Prayer?**

As Jesus' well-intentioned but ill-informed family work their way to Him, He gets out of their reach ... *before there's a riot.*

Now Jesus' mother and brothers **came to see him**, [in His home office] but they were not able to get near him because of the crowd. **While Jesus was still talking to the crowd**, [about the seven wicked spirits coming into the unoccupied house] his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. A crowd was sitting around him, **Someone [a man] told him**, and **they [the crowd] told him**, [knowing full well that He knows full well] "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, looking for you. wanting to see you. wanting to speak to you." He replied to **him**, [the man] "**Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?**" ["Are you My mother?" "Um, I never know the answer to these. I'm just the guy they sent in."] "**Who are my mother and my brothers?**" he asked. [the crowd] ["Come on. You should know this one. I just said it when that woman called out about My mom. Anyone? Blessed rather are those who ... hear the word of God and obey it."] **Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him** [humbly sitting at His feet, receiving His instruction, in His house that is both occupied and united] and Pointing to his disciples, he said, "**Here are my mother and my brothers!**" "My mother and brothers are **those who hear God's word and put it into practice.**" For **whoever does the will of my Father in heaven** God's will is my brother and sister and mother." – Mat 12:46-50; Mark 3:31b-35; Luke 8:19-21 NIV



Do you do the will of His Father in heaven? Maybe we should back that up a step: **What is God's will for you and me?** Come on. You should know this one. I just read it. He just said it: "**My mother and brothers are ... those who ... hear God's Word and put it into practice.**"

Blood is thicker than water; but, obedience is thicker than blood.



This means, if you have a loving, supportive, nurturing family, that you love with all your heart, you better be careful that you don't prioritize 'em above your highest relationship.

Jesus elevates our commitment to our Father above our family.



If there's any tug-of-war of loyalty or commitment with your earthly family and your *Heavenly Father* you better resolve it.

He demands our full allegiance. And, He does so in no uncertain terms.

When He sends out His Twelve, He says.

"Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but **a sword**. [According to Hebrews 4:12, God's Word is a living, active, dividing, sword] For I have come to turn 'a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law — **a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.**' [If they're working against the will of God; even though they may be acting out of heartfelt concern, compassion, and love] Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me;" – Matthew 10:34-37 NIV

Why? *Is He just that selfish?* No! It's *quite* the opposite. **You can only love them best when you love Him most.** And, *He* wants what's eternally best for those *you* love. So, if we allow *them* to distract *us* from *Him*, then we're acting unworthy of the One who calls us to assist *Him* to save *them*! We're acting as though we don't know that ...

The world and its desires pass away, but **the man who does the will of God lives forever.** - 1 John 2:17 NIV

Does it make more sense to faithfully stand firm and try to woo them into God's will; or to fondly follow them out of it? Jesus had to leave His own family outside that day. (Luke 11:37) And that had to hurt Him, *deeply*. **Are you missing the support and encouragement of your family? Has your father, mother, son, daughter, or spouse turned on you?**

Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me. – Psalm 27:10 NIV

No matter your earthly father, mother, sister, brother, or spouse, you'll rise above because your deepest love dwells above. You can rise above *any* rejection, abuse, or abandonment, because **your Savior's love is infinitely richer and eternally stronger.** If we can remember that each family member is merely a fellow traveler, and that true, eternal, unconditional love only comes from above, **we can help our misguided family find their way.**

Jesus did. With His. That next afternoon.

Jesus left there and **went to his hometown,** [to have a much-needed heart-to-heart with His family] **accompanied by his disciples.** [The last time He was home, alone, they tried to throw Him off a cliff! (Luke 4:16-30) That's when He moved to Capernaum (Luke 4:31; Mat 4:13)] When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. **"Where did this man get these things?"** they asked. ["His family thinks he's out of his mind."] **"What's this wisdom that has been given him, that he even does miracles!** ["The rulers say He's possessed by the prince of demons!"] **Isn't this the carpenter?** ["Who does he think he is to rebuke all the trained religious leaders?"] **Isn't this Mary's son** ["You know, the out-of-wedlock one."] and **the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon?** ["Who just went to Capernaum to try and seize him for his own good."] **Aren't his sisters here with us?"** ["I heard that he refers to these disciples of his as his "sisters" and "mother"!"] And **they took offense at him.** Jesus said to them, **"Only in his hometown, among his relatives and** [addressing the elephant in the room] **in his own house** is a prophet without honor." He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. And he was amazed at their lack of faith. – Mark 6:1-6a NIV

Familiarity breeds contempt ... even for the Son of Man!

Do you take your relationship with Jesus for granted?

Is your highest allegiance to Jesus?

If one of those is "no" the other, by default, is "yes".